

Message Text

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S E C R E T USNATO 6901

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TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: EXERCISE HILEX 7 - DECEMBER 15 MEETING OF THE HIGH LEVEL
EXERCISE PLANNING GROUP

REF: A. STATE 291140 DTG 102001Z DEC 75

B. USNATO 6822 DTG 111640Z DEC 75

SUMMARY: AT THE DECEMBER 15 HIGH LEVEL EXERCISE PLANNING
GROUP (HLEPG) MEETING, NATIONAL REPS APPROVED THE REVISED
DRAFT PRE-EXERCISE SETTING AND POLITICAL AND MILITARY INCIDENT
LISTS AFTER MAKING A NUMBER OF MINOR MODIFICATIONS. ON THE
TRANSPORTATION OF REINFORCEMENTS, THE PLANNING GROUP AGREED
THAT SCEPC SHOULD "DUST OFF" THE PLANS AND PROCEDURES DEALING
WITH EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS ON E MINUS 3. IN VIEW OF THE
NUMEROUS PRESS INQUIRIES RECEIVED BY VARIOUS
DELEGATIONS AND CAPITALS AS TO THE DETAILS OF HILEX 7, THE
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HLEPG APPROVED A CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE STATEMENT (TEXT
QUOTED IN PARA 6 BELOW) TO BE USED BY SPOLESMEN AT NATO HQ AND IN
CAPITALS, IF ASKED. THE PLANNING GROUP AGREED THAT THERE
WOULD BE NO NEED FOR FUTHER HLEPG MEETINGS. INTERNATIONAL

STAFF WILL NOW PREPARE ALL THE EXERCISE DOCUMENTS IN FINAL FORM FOR DISTRIBUTION WITHIN NATO HQ AND CAPITALS IN FEBRUARY 1976. END SUMMARY.

1. THE HLEPG APPROVED THE REVISED DRAFT PRE-EXERCISE SETTING (AC/287(H-7)-WP/1(3RD REVISE), DRAFT MILITARY INCIDENT LISTS (AC/287(H-7)-WP/3(2ND REVISE) AND AC/287(H-7)-WP/4(2ND REVISE)), AND DRAFT POLITICAL INCIDENT LIST (AC/287(H-7)-WP/9(REVISED) AFTER MAKING A NUMBER OF MINOR MODIFICATIONS. OF NOTE WAS A SHAPE REP (MORRIS JONES) REQUEST TO CHANGE THE DATE IN PARA 31, PAGE 40, AC/287(H-7)-WP/1(3RD REVISE) OF THE SCHEDULED ACE MOBILE FORCE EXERCISE FROM APRIL 1 TO APRIL 5, 1976 IN ORDER TO AVOID HYPOTHETICAL FORCE DEPLOYMENTS DURING THE EXERCISE.

2. TURNING TO THE TRANSPORTATION OF REINFORCEMENTS, US REP (CRONIN) POINTED OUT THAT HILEX 6 FAILED TO PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR TESTING AND EVALUATING CIVIL RESOURCE PLANNING PROCEDURES. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IT WAS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE US DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR RESOURCE PROBLEM INPUTS FOR HILEX 7, TO CREATE SITUATIONS WHICH WOULD OFFER MEMBER NATIONS AND THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXAMINE EXISTING CIVIL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES AND TO EXERCISE THE EMERGENCY DECISION PROCESS BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN CAPITALS. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE HOPED THAT THE TRANSPORT OF EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS WOULD BECOME THE OBJECT OF SPECIFIC PLANNING AND CONSULTATION IN SCEPC DURING HILEX 7.

3. IN RESPONSE TO US REP'S STATEMENT, CHAIRMAN (SUNGURTEKIN) CITED A NUMBER OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXERCISE SCENARIO WHICH, IN HIS VIEW, WOULD ASSURE TIMELY DPC/MC/SECEPC/MNC CONSIDERATION OF AND PLANNING FOR THE US, UK AND CANADIAN REINFORCEMENTS. TO ENSURE THAT SCEPC WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH THE REINFORCEMENT PROBLEM AND CARRY OUT THE "WHAT IF" PLANNING AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE EXERCISE, DIRECTOR COUNCIL OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE (MORAN) SUGGESTED THAT THE DPC DIRECT SCEPC ON EMINUS 3 TO "DUST OFF" THEIR PLANS AND PROCEDURES DEALING
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WITH EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS. THIS SUGGESTION WAS FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY THE HLEPG, ESPECIALLY BY THE NORWEGIAN REP (VALEUR), AND IT WILL MAKE THIS PART OF THE SCRIPTED SCENARIO COVERING REINFORCEMENTS. HLEPG APPROVED DRAFT TRANSPORT OF EXTERNAL REINFORCEMENTS PROBLEMS (AC/287(H-7)-WP/7(3RD REVISE) AND AC/287(H-7)-WP/12) AND FOOD GRAIN PROBLEMS (AC/287(H-7)-WP/6(2ND REVISE) AND AC/287(H-7)-WP/11(REVISED) WITHOUT FURTHER MODIFICATION.

4. US REP (POLICASTRO) NOTED THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE BELGIAN DELEGATION (POUCHED) THAT OUTLINED SOME PROBLEMS CONCERNING AIRFIELD RECEPTION FACILITIES IN BELGIUM FOR US REINFORCEMENTS. HE SUGGESTED THAT REPS FROM THE US

AND BELGIAN DELEGATIONS MEET AT A LATER DATE TO RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS. BELGIAN REP (VAN DE PUTTE) AGREED TO THIS SUGGESTION. COMMENT: WE WILL KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. END COMMENT.

5. THE HLEPG APPROVED THE PLAY OF PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY (AC/287(H-7)-WP/13 AND AC/287(H-7)-N/5) WITHOUT MODIFICATION.

6. DRAWING OF REF A, US REP (POLICASTRO) PRESENTED STRONG CASE FOR A UNIFORM PRESS GUIDANCE ON HILEX 7. THIS PROPOSAL WAS WELL RECEIVED BY THE HLEPG AND THEY AGREED TO THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY TEXT TO BE USED BY SPOKESMEN AT NATO HQ AND IN CAPITALS IF ASKED ABOUT HILEX 7. QUOTE:

HILEX IS A ROUTINE NATO EXERCISE TO BE HELD IN THE SPRING OF 1976, THE AIM OF WHICH IS TO TEST AND FURTHER DEVELOP ALLIANCE PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION AND COLLECTIVE DECISION-MAKING ON MATTER WHICH MIGHT CONFRONT THE ALLIANCE IN A CRISIS. PROCEDURES ONLY ARE TESTED AND NO FORCES ARE DEPLOYED. AS THE NAME IMPLIES, THE EXERCISE IS ONE WHERE HIGH LEVEL OFFICIALS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS AND IN NATIONAL CAPITALS REACT TO HYPOTHETICAL EVENTS. END QUOTE.

7. GREEK REP (ZAFIRIOU) SAID THAT ALTHOUGH GREECE WAS REPRESENTED IN THE PLANNING FOR HILEX 7, THIS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN TO INDICATE THAT THEY WOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE NEXT YEAR. IN THIS CONNECTION, HE SAID THAT IF ASKED IN ADVANCE OF THE EXERCISE WHETHER GREECE IS PARTICIPATING, "THE SPOKESMAN
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SHOULD SAY THAT GREECE HAS NOT YET MADE CLEAR HER POSITION". DANISH REP (BRIX ANDERSEN) POINTED OUT THAT IDENTIFYING ONE NATION THAT MIGHT NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE EXERCISE MIGHT PROVE AWKWARD SINCE THERE IS ALSO THE PROBLEM WITH PORTUGUESE PARTICIPATION. HLEPG AGREED THAT NO MENTION SHOULD BE MADE OF THE NATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE EXERCISE AND IF ASKED, THE SPOKESMAN SHOULD SAY "THAT THEY ARE NOT AT LIBERTY TO DISCLOSE THIS INFORMATION". CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE WILL SEND THE TEXT OF THE PROPOSED PRESS GUIDANCE TO SYG FOR FINAL APPROVAL AND THEN CIRCULATE IT OVER THE NATO-WIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO ALL CAPITALS.

8. THE HLEPG AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE PLANNING GROUP. THEY FURTHER AGREED THAT THE IS SHOULD WORK WITH APPROPRIATE DELEGATIONS TO RESOLVE ANY OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. BRUCE

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